

# The News - Banner

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THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## 'Another chance'

A joint effort leads to the placement of an anti-overdose medication box

By DAVE SCHULTZ

The overdose reversal medication naloxone is now available on a round-the-clock basis in downtown Bluffton.

The box, which can be found behind the Community Thrift store at 117 S. Main St., is a joint effort between Community Care of Northeast Indiana, which is based in Bluffton, and the Wells County-based Citizens Against Drug Abuse. The Overdose Lifeline organization in Indianapolis facilitates the program, which has a goal of putting at least two of the boxes in each Indiana county.



Naloxone nasal spray available at the box in downtown Bluffton. (Photo by Carrie Penrod)

A group of about 100 people showed up for the official placement of the box Wednesday, with Chris Walker, the executive director of Community Care, and Molly Hoag of CADA talking about the project.

"If we can change one life, if we can save a mother from losing a child because of an overdose, it would be worth it for one life," said Walker, who has a daughter that survived a heroin overdose. "It's about life-alter-



Chris Walker, left, and Molly Hoag, right, talk about the naloxone anti-overdose medication box that will be available behind the Community Cares Thrift Store at 117 S. Main St. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

ing circumstances and helping people to walk out of past addictions, but it's more than that: It's giving them another chance at life."

There is a school of thought that says that halting an

overdose for an individual is simply facilitating the misuse of addictive (and often illegal) substances. Proponents of the use of naloxone, however, look on it more as an effort at

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What kind of work do lawmakers have? From dentists to doctors, professions cover the gamut. (Photo by Monroe Bush for Indiana Capital Chronicle) This photo was provided to the News-Banner by the Hoosier State Press Association's Information Network.

## Indiana's part-time legislature is full-time for some lawmakers

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ and WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana has a part-time citizen legislature but roughly two dozen lawmakers indicated on the latest statement of economic interest forms filed in January that the legislature is their sole employer and reported no outside work.

Sen. Jean Breaux, D-Indianapolis, said she applied for many jobs outside of the General Assembly but several employers saw her role in the legislature as a conflict — both in terms of ethics and time commitments.

"In many ways, there's always going to be a conflict of interest," Breaux said. "I would recuse myself but a lot of people don't do that."

Breaux lost her previous job when she was elected in 2006 because she worked fostering economic development for the state and Indiana doesn't permit employees to hold two positions.

Most of the legislators who don't have outside employment are retired but others are prime working age.

The majority of Indiana's lawmakers work other jobs — and draw from their expertise to craft legislation, from legal matters to education and more. But it also leads to fears that they could benefit themselves or their industries through the law.

Real estate was a common thread in the filings — with more

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## Storms end Southern California water restrictions for 7M

By JOHN ANTCHAK and STEFANIE DAZIO  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California's 11th atmospheric river left the storm-soaked state with a bang Wednesday, bringing flooded roadways, landslides and toppled trees to the southern part of the state as well as drought-busting rainfall that meant the end of water restrictions for nearly 7 million people.

Even as residents struggled to clean up before the next round of

winter arrives in the coming days — with some 27,000 people still under evacuation orders statewide Wednesday — the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's decision brought relief amid the state's historic drought.

The district supplies water for 19 million people in six counties. The board imposed the restrictions, which included limiting outdoor watering to one day a week, in parts of Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernardino counties last

year during a severe shortage of state water supplies.

But weather woes remained Wednesday, as an additional 61,000 people remained under evacuation warnings and emergency shelters housed more than 650 people, according to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Flooding also closed several miles of the Pacific Coast Highway through Huntington Beach, south of Los Angeles on the

Orange County coast, and potholes disabled more than 30 cars on one Southern California freeway. More than 144,000 utility customers statewide remained without power Wednesday afternoon, according to poweroutage.us.

Gov. Gavin Newsom surveyed flood damage in an agricultural region on the central coast, noting that California could potentially see a 12th atmospheric river next week. Officials have not yet determined the extent of the winter

storms' damage, both structurally and financially.

"Look back — last few years in this state, it's been fire to ice with no warm bath in between," the Democrat said, describing "weather whiplash" in a state that has quickly gone from extreme drought and wildfires to overwhelming snow and rain.

"If anyone has any doubt about Mother Nature and her fury, if anyone has any doubt about what

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## U.S., Russian military chiefs resume contact to discuss drone

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke to his Russian counterpart on Wednesday about the destruction of a U.S. drone over the Black Sea after an encounter with Russian fighter jets, which brought

the two countries closest to direct conflict since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine a year ago.

It was the first call between Austin and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu since October. And Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had a similar call with his Russian counterpart, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, the chief

of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces.

"We take any potential for escalation very seriously. And that's why I believe it's important to keep the lines of communication open," Austin said at a Pentagon press briefing. "I think it's really key that we're able to pick up the phone and engage each other.

And I think that that will help to prevent miscalculation going forward."

The U.S. military said it ditched the Air Force MQ-9 Reaper in the sea after a Russian fighter jet poured fuel on the surveillance drone and then struck its propeller while it was flying in international airspace. Russia has denied that it

caused the accident. The U.S. has said it was working on declassifying surveillance footage from the drone that would show Tuesday's crash.

That the top U.S. and Russian defense and military leaders were talking so soon after the incident underscored the seriousness of the

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### Outside

Raindrops keep falling on our heads

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 53	High 44	High 29
Low 48	Low 21	Low 21

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### Online

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March 16, 2023

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Some of the community members who attended Wednesday's ceremony celebrating the location of a naloxone box in Bluffton gathered for a group photo. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

## Overdose medication

(Continued from Page 1)

what is referred to as harm reduction. "The idea behind harm reduction is, no matter if you're addicted or not, you deserve to live," Hoag said. "If they overdose and there's someone there with naloxone, they can get the help they need."

In other words: There's nothing that can be done for a dead addict, but if there is life, something can be done to make them whole.

"This is not for the substance user,"

Hoag said. "This is for the family member, the neighbor, the person in the grocery store who sees someone unresponsive."

Overdose Lifeline (overdoselife-line.org) has a goal of placing at least two boxes in each of Indiana's 92 counties. There are certain criteria that have to be met for a site to qualify permission from the property owner and to be easily accessible on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis. The box in downtown Bluffton is avail-

able off of Walnut Street and the alley behind the Community Thrift store and there is a small parking lot to the east of it.

The Community Cares Resource Center will monitor the status of the box and will refill it as needed. Operation Overdose will supply more naloxone as needed.

The brand name for the naloxone provided in Bluffton is Narcan. The overdose medication is often referred to be that name as well.

## Indiana legislature

(Continued from Page 1)

than 30 lawmakers listing real estate investment, management, development or rental firms.

At least 10 lawmakers hold an insurance license, while another is an accountant and yet another is a licensed plumber. Two are retired physicians while one is active, some still hold their teaching licenses and one member even holds an auctioneer's license.

Many are retired or are business owners who can make their own hours. Others, including doctors and teachers, must take a leave of absence during the legislative session.

### Reading the forms

Both House and Senate legislators submit statements of economic interest annually, disclosing the businesses for which they work and in which they invest, alongside lobbying connections and more. But it's unclear how much transparency they really promote.

Even for those who do work outside of the General Assembly, the form fails to capture certain nuances, such as whether a member is self-employed or working in an unpaid career.

Rep. Maureen Bauer, D-South Bend, planted grapes in 2020 but the crop takes three years to mature and hasn't yet produced a profit.

Others, like Rep. Robin Shackelford, D-Indianapolis, don't have traditional

employers but still work outside of the legislature — in her case, as an independent insurance agent.

Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, is a mediator but listed her practice as a business interest — the same place where she listed her stock holdings.

Some receive passive income, such as Rep. David Abbott, R-Rome City, who receives a dividend from a local grocery store or Rep. Justin Moed, D-Indianapolis, who lists a farmhouse on AirBnB.

A handful of lawmakers are retired and drawing from pensions or other retirement funds.

### Part-time pay?

Indiana is considered to have a "part-time" legislature, with a base salary just under \$30,000. They are in session around four months in odd-numbered years and about 2 1/2 months in even-numbered years. But with per diem and leadership pay, legislator compensation averages roughly \$70,000, higher than Indiana's median full-time income of \$62,000.

During the summer, lawmakers are members of various commissions and study committees or need to meet with constituents — meaning lawmakers have obligations year-round.

Special sessions, such as last summer's and the redistricting session the year before, also add to the time spent outside of the statutorily defined session.

"It's still a full-time job in the off-season," Breaux said. "We should be full-time."

### Professions run the gamut

Few members of the General Assembly have legal training despite their role writing the state's laws.

About 20 of the body's 150 lawmakers have law licenses and most work in the legal industry, according to data in Indiana's legislator database and roll of attorneys. Two legislator licenses are inactive but "in good standing."

Most of the attorneys work in law offices or are self-employed. Some work for educational institutions, like Rep. Regan Hatcher, D-Gary, who lists Indiana University as her employer. Sen. Rodney Pol, D-Chesterton, works for the city of Gary. House Democrat Leader Phil GiaQuinta works for Fort Wayne City Utilities.

Each chamber's judiciary committee has the highest concentration of lawyers serving and deep dives into the legal minutiae often feels like a courtroom battle.

Builders who have prominent roles on related committees or that carry pro-development bills have repeatedly come under fire for perceived ethical qualms.

Farming interests are also represented in the legislature.

Three lawmakers reported working for farms directly, while Rep. Kendall Culp, R-Rensselaer, is an Indiana Farm Bureau leader. Culp and more lawmakers

also said they had financial stakes in largely family-owned farms.

### Candy and dogs

A smattering of lawmakers work in unique industries, like candy-maker Rep. Sharon Negele, R-Attica. She's owned Wolf's Homemade Candies since 1996, and lists it as an outside employer.

A lawmaker one also might expect to work in the confectionary industry — Rep. Lorissa Sweet, R-Wabash — actually owns the dog-grooming company Sweet Grooms and wedding rentals firm Sweet Occasions.

Rep. Stacey Donato, R-Logansport, also works with animals — she listed veterinarian services company JHAADVM as an employer — alongside her work as an automotive dealership accountant at the family's Donato & Sons Motors.

Some work in far graver industries: Rep. Mark Genda, R-Frankfort, and Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, both own funeral homes.

On a lighter note: Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg), a farm-linked lawmaker championing rural Hoosiers, also runs travel agency Adventures in Travel. And though Rep. Bob Morris (R-Allen) works in nutrition sales, he also listed a fire-works company as a business entity: Best Bang LLC.

*This story was provided to the News-Banner by the Hoosier State Press Association's Information Network.*

## Weather

Thursday, March 16, 2023

(24-hour observations at 9:08 p.m. Wednesday)

High: 46; Low: 18; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.02 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Rain likely, mainly after 5 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53. South wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

**Tonight:** Rain. Steady temperature around 48. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Friday:** A 50 percent chance of rain before 2 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 44. West wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 21. West wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 29. Breezy.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21. Breezy.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 35.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 21.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 43.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 25.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 50.

## U.S., Russia talks

(Continued from Page 1)

encounter over the Black Sea and that both sides recognized the need to tamp down the risks of escalation. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, contact between U.S. and Russian military leaders has been limited, with Russian officials refusing to take U.S. military calls in the early months of the war.

There are still questions as to whether Russia meant to down the drone, even though the moments that led up to its crash were "intentional," said Milley, who stood alongside Austin at the briefing.

"We know that the intercept was intentional. We know that the aggressive behavior was intentional," Milley said.

However, he told reporters that it was still unclear whether the collision itself was intentional. And he pushed back against Rus-

sia's contention that the fighter jets did not come in contact with the drone.

"We have absolute evidence of the contact," Milley said. "It's very aggressive. ... We have video evidence and all that."

Milley and Austin also left open the possibility that the U.S. could try to recover portions of the downed \$32 million drone, which Milley said crashed into waters that were 4,000 to 5,000 feet deep.

Other U.S. officials said the U.S. doesn't have military ships in the region, and won't likely seek to recover wreckage. The Black Sea has been closed since early 2022 to military vessels that do not have a home port along its shores.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public, said Russia has already sent ships to the area and attempted to recover pieces of the drone.

## TikTok dismisses calls for Chinese owners to sell stakes

WASHINGTON (AP) — TikTok was dismissive Wednesday of reports that the Biden administration was calling for its Chinese owners to sell their stakes in the popular video-sharing app, saying such a move wouldn't help protect national security.

The company was responding to a report in The Wall Street Journal that said the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., part of the Treasury Department, was threatening a U.S. ban on the app unless its owners, Beijing-based ByteDance Ltd., divested.

"If protecting national security is the objective, divestment doesn't solve the problem: a change in ownership would not impose any new restrictions on data flows or access," TikTok spokesperson Maureen Shanahan said. "The best way to address concerns about national security is with the transparent, U.S.-based protection of U.S. user data and systems, with robust third-party monitoring, vetting, and verification, which we

are already implementing."

The Journal report cited anonymous "people familiar with the matter." The Treasury Department and the White House's National Security Council declined to comment.

Late last month, the White House gave all federal agencies 30 days to wipe TikTok off all government devices.

The Office of Management and Budget called the guidance a "critical step forward in addressing the risks presented by the app to sensitive government data." Some agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and State, already have restrictions in place. The White House already does not allow TikTok on its devices.

Congress passed the "No TikTok on Government Devices Act" in December as part of a sweeping government funding package. The legislation does allow for TikTok use in certain cases, including for national security, law enforcement and research purposes.

## California water restrictions

(Continued from Page 1)

this is all about in terms of what's happening to the climate and the changes that we are experiencing, come to California," the governor said.

California's latest atmospheric river was one of two storm systems that bookended the U.S. this week. Parts of New England and New York were digging out of a nor'easter Wednesday that caused tens of thousands of power outages, numerous school cancellations and whiteout conditions on roads.

Remaining showers across Southern California were expected to decrease through Wednesday evening as the storm headed toward parts of the Great Basin. The weather service said California will see minor precipitation this weekend, followed by another substantial storm next week.

Three cliff-top apartment buildings were evacuated

Wednesday morning when earth slid away from their backyards in coastal San Clemente, the Orange County Fire Authority said. Residents were also cleared out of a nearby building as the severity of the slide was studied.

Orange County had already declared a local emergency when a similar hillside collapsed March 3 in Newport Beach, leaving a house uninhabitable and endangering others.

For downtown Los Angeles, the National Weather Service said just under two feet of rain has been recorded so far this water year — making this the 14th wettest in more than 140 years of records.

An overnight mudslide onto a road in the Baldwin Hills area of Los Angeles County trapped two cars, KNBC-TV reported. Another hillside in the neighborhood also gave way, threatening the foundation home.

Weather in the northern

and central sections of the state had dried out earlier, following Tuesday's heavy rain and fierce winds that blew out windows on a San Francisco high-rise and gusted to 74 mph at the city's airport.

Forty-three of the state's 58 counties have been under states of emergency due to the storms.

Despite California's rains winding down, flood warnings remain in effect on the central coast for the Salinas and Pajaro rivers in Monterey County and other riv-

ers in the Central Valley as water runs off land that has been saturated by storms since late December.

Runoff from a powerful atmospheric river last week burst a levee on the Pajaro River, triggering evacuations as water flooded farmland and agricultural communities. Nearly half of the people under evacuation orders were in Monterey County. Closed sections of the Pacific Coast Highway in the area were expected to reopen Wednesday night.

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# Police Notebook

## INCIDENTS

**City:**  
 Monday, 2:54 p.m., North Main Street at East Dustman Road. Complaint of a vehicle ignoring a bus stop arm.  
 Monday, 3:04 p.m., Main Motel. Request for stand-by with property retrieval. Retrieved without incident.  
 Monday, 5:21 p.m., Bluffton-Harrison Elementary. Report a high school student at this location with drugs in their backpack. Juvenile brought back to the police department.  
 Monday, 5:27 p.m., The News-Banner. Bike near this location matching description of a stolen bike.  
 Monday, 5:37 p.m., residence on Pine Grove Court. Nine-year-old yelling and being physically aggressive with caller. Juvenile calmed down when officer arrived.  
 Monday, 7:21 p.m., Pak-a-Sak. Driver appears to be passed out. Warrant received for blood alcohol test at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.  
 Tuesday, 2:26 a.m., Phil's One Stop. Alarm triggered. Officers secured building.  
 Tuesday, 2:55 a.m., Star Financial. Damage to ATM.  
 Tuesday, 9:11 a.m., resi-

dence on Ind. 124. Found bicycle.  
 Tuesday, 11:52 a.m., residence on Oak Street. Juvenile not returned home in nearly 24 hours.  
 Tuesday, 3:16 p.m., Bluffton Super Wash. Truck reportedly damaged washer.  
 Tuesday, 7:06 p.m., The Cellular Connection. Individual had provided false information and stolen two phones.  
 Tuesday, 7:22 p.m., residence on North Main Street. Caller wants an officer to explain to their mentally disabled child why not to take a found empty gun shell to school. Officer disposed of empty shell.  
 Tuesday, 10:02 p.m., Bargain Hut. Suspicious male walking in circles. Male detained with report to follow.  
 Wednesday, 4:08 a.m., KOA Campground. Complaint of barking dog in the area.  
 Wednesday, 7:52 a.m., residence on West Market Street. Report of vandalism to window.  
 Wednesday, 8:43 a.m., McDonalds. Suspected carbon monoxide leak. Building advised to evacuate. Leak

found to be a faulty beverage line.  
 Wednesday, 11:45 a.m., Bluffton High School. Student cited for possession of a vape.  
 Wednesday, 12:10 p.m., Landmark Recovery. Man previously in recovery program wanting help retrieving his property. Staff said they lost the items.  
**County:**  
 Monday, 1:10 p.m., residence on 200W, Markle. Assist with Department of Child Services. DCS took custody of two children.  
 Monday, 1:46 p.m., North Meridian Road and East 200N, rural Bluffton. Eight bags of trash dumped on the side of the road.  
 Monday, 4:04 p.m., residence on 200W, Markle. Resident wished to report damage done to the door when deputies had prior assisted the Department of Child Services earlier. Deputy located and photographed a hairline crack in the door for evidence.  
 Monday, 5:33 p.m., North 300W and West 100N. Unattended vehicle with keys in the ignition and doors locked.

Tuesday, 8:07 a.m., Ind. 218 near West Meridian Road, Poneto. Amy J. Caldwell, 51, Berne, was driving a 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer SUV westbound and lost control of the vehicle due to ice on the roadway. The vehicle spun clockwise, striking several shrubs and a flagpole at 290 West Main Street in Poneto, and came to rest. The vehicle was towed by Wyatt's. Damage exceeded \$1,000.  
 Tuesday, 1:29 p.m., residence on 200W, Keystone. Deputy assisted with the Department of Child Services.  
 Tuesday, 1:41 p.m., residence on Ind. 116, Markle. Request for a welfare check on a man acting agitated and making comments about self harm. Man advised he was fine, and his wife explained what had happened. Deputy spoke with the man and offered to transport him to the veteran's affairs hospital in Marion, and the man agreed.  
 Tuesday, 5:20 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments, Bluffton. Alarm. Building secured.  
 Tuesday, 9 p.m., North Ind. 1 and East 700N, Jeffer-

son Township. Broken down vehicle. Deputy stood by during battery replacement.  
 Wednesday, 8:27 a.m., residence on 100E, rural Bluffton. Probation office requesting a welfare check for woman involved in a domestic violence situation and unable to be located.  
 Wednesday, 9:15 a.m., 7717S 900W, Warren. Contractors had triggered the burglar alarm.  
**ACCIDENTS**  
**City:**  
 Monday, 3:54 p.m., Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School. Amy L. Gilbert, 39, Bluffton, was driving a 2013 Chevrolet Impala and backed into a parked 2018 Dodge Grand Canyon, resulting in slight scuff marks, paint transfer and damage to the bumper. Damage exceeded \$1,000.  
 Tuesday, 5:17 p.m., 632 North Main St. John Corwin, 73, Pennville, was driving a 2009 GMC Sierra pick-up truck northbound on Ind. 1 and fell asleep, striking a 2014 Kia Forte driven by Kelly D. Jasper, 25, Markle, while she was stopped in the Pizza Hut entrance. Corwin's vehicle continued

northbound and hit an AEP utility pole, breaking it off at the bottom. Both vehicles were towed by Freeman's. Corwin complained of neck and back pain and was transported by EMS to Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Damage exceeded \$25,000.  
**County:**  
 Tuesday, 5:45 a.m., Ind. 1 at 1000S, Petroleum. Madison McConn, 26, Bluffton, was driving a 2003 Ford Taurus southbound on Ind. 1 and encountered slick road conditions, losing control of the vehicle and spinning nearly 180 degrees. The vehicle took out a road sign and rolled into a ditch before coming to rest. The vehicle was towed by Wyatt's. Damage exceeded \$5,000.  
**ARRESTS**  
 Atonia Louise Myers, 62, Decatur; operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of .15 or higher and operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$1,500.  
 Kyle Allen Peterson, 44, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.

## A Talk with Tego



Biscuit is a one-year-old, domestic short hair, spayed female.



Jax is a one-year-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.



Jet is a seven-month-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.



Tego

**Tego's Tips:** These cats are all super friendly and would make great family pets!

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

## Indiana Briefs

### Indiana couple arrested for alleged role in Capitol riot

BROWNSBURG, Ind. (AP) — A suburban Indianapolis couple was arrested Wednesday on charges alleging that they took part in the 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Arthur Reyher, 38, and Jessica Reyher, 38, were arrested in Indiana on a felony civil disorder charge and four misdemeanors, prosecutors said in a news release.

The Brownsburg residents, who were charged in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, appeared Wednesday in federal court in Indianapolis. They were released without bond, told to surrender their passports and to restrict their travel, WISH-TV reported.

Online court records do not list attorneys who could speak the Reyhers' behalf.

A criminal complaint alleges the couple was among the first group of rioters to enter the tunnel areas of the Capitol, The Indianapolis Star reported.

They allegedly entered the tunnel near the Capitol's Lower West Terrace three separate times on Jan. 6, 2021, joining others pushing against police officers while trying to enter the Capitol. The complaint alleges the mob's pushing pinned one officer against a shield and a door, causing him pain.

Arthur Reyher was seen on officer body camera footage and surveillance cameras chanting "Our House" as they pushed, the complaint alleges. The pushing continued for several minutes until police shoved the rioters, including the Reyhers, out of the area.

Investigators said an anonymous tipster told them the Reyhers were posting on Facebook about their involvement in the riot.

Arthur Reyher allegedly told law enforcement he and his wife were at the Capitol, and said he believed former President Donald Trump lost the election because of voter fraud.

### Warrant issued in fatal shooting outside Indy mall

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An arrest warrant was issued Tuesday for a 19-year-old Indianapolis man charging him with voluntary manslaughter and battery in a shooting at an Indianapolis shopping mall that killed another teen and injured a man.

The warrant was issued by a Marion County court. The suspect was not in custody Tuesday evening.

The Jan. 3 shooting outside Castleton Square Mall on the city's far northeast side killed 16-year-old Michael Mason Jr.

Court documents say Mason and the man who was injured were at the mall and walked to a car that looked like theirs and was parked in the same area. The man told police the suspect opened fire from the car's back seat, killing Mason, then chased him as he ran from the car and shot him from about 10 feet away.

The suspect told police he thought he was about to be robbed and opened fire to protect himself.

The shooting was the first of two this year at the mall. An 18-year-old man accidentally shot himself there on Feb. 17.

## State "school choice" advocates up lobbying efforts for more private, charter school funding

**By CASEY SMITH**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**  
 Indiana's leading "school choice" advocates are mobilizing families at Hoosier private schools and ramping up lobbying efforts to expand the state's voucher program.

The latest push includes a statewide poll and multiple local advocacy events intended to sway the state's budget writers.

The Institute for Quality Education, an Indianapolis-based nonprofit that backs the state's charter school and private school voucher programs, is the main driving force behind the campaign.

Betsy Wiley, IQE's president and CEO, confirmed to the Indiana Capital Chronicle that the organization just finished up a statewide survey. Wiley said the poll is "a pretty broad brush" that could be used to persuade lawmakers to increase dollars for private and charter schools in the final days of the legislative session.

Results of the survey are not yet available.

Increased calls for expanded private and charter school funding come amid lawmaker deliberations around the next two-year state budget, which must be finalized by the end of the legislative session in late April.

Nearly half of the House Republican budget, 48 percent, goes to K-12 education, which will get a boost of nearly \$2 billion over its current appropriation. One-third of that new funding will go to vouchers, however, drawing pushback from Democrats and other critics who maintain that such a move will take critical funding away from traditional public schools.

### New statewide survey centers around private and charter school funding

IQE has conducted similar surveys in recent years, often at the midpoint of the legislative session, to test public opinion on the group's "school choice" agenda items.

The group's political action committee — Hoosiers for Quality Education — has also circulated polls, as recently as this month.

In addition to demographic information, the latest IQE survey asks respondents if their local public schools "have gotten better or worse in recent years," and to grade local public schools on an A-F scale.

Numerous questions aimed specifically at charter schools focus on equal funding for such schools.

A new funding stream carved into the House-approved version of the budget would mandate the amount of funds every public school district and charter school receives for operations, which are collected through local property taxes.

### Another, along similar lines, questions:

Like traditional public schools, public charter schools are funded by state and federal funds. However, traditional public schools receive local property tax dollars to pay for teacher salaries, building needs, school security, and transportation. Indiana's public charter schools don't receive any local property tax dollars. Considering charter schools in Indiana are free, public, and open to all students, would you support or oppose providing public charter schools a fair share of local property tax dollars dedicated for public educa-

tion without raising taxes?

Other survey questions gauge Hoosiers' thoughts on the state's "school choice" program, known as Choice Scholarships, which allows families to receive vouchers to attend private schools.

In addition to asking about "general support" for Choice Scholarships, the survey seeks opinions about a proposal to raise the program's income eligibility limit.

The average family of four with a household income of \$154,000 or less is currently eligible for the voucher program. Under the new GOP-backed budget proposal, families making up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level, roughly \$220,000, would qualify for vouchers.

### Private schools call on lawmakers

As part of its campaign, IQE is additionally calling on Hoosier families to contact state lawmakers and express support for "private school choice" and "charter school funding" in the state's budget.

Part of that is being carried out through a joint effort between IQE and the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, bringing speakers and advocacy activities to private schools around the state.

Online and across social media, individual private and charter schools are also encouraging families to contact state lawmakers directly, especially after a top GOP senator called for voucher school reforms — not expansion — in the current legislative session.

— — —  
 This story was provided to the News-Banner by the Hoosier State Press Association's Information Network.

## Wells County to receive estimated \$3,935 in federal funds for emergency food and shelter programs

Applications due from qualified organizations by Friday, March 31, 2023

Wells County has been notified that it will be awarded an estimated \$3935 federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as appropriated by Congress.

A Local Board will determine how the funds awarded to Wells County are to be distributed among local agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds. In anticipation of this award and deadlines, the Local

EFSP Board is encouraging local agencies that meet requirements to apply for the funds.

Nonprofit organizations or public agencies interested in applying for Phase 40 Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Local Board Chair, 122 LaMar St., Suite 118, Bluffton, IN 46714 or UWDirector@unitedwaywells.org with a letter with the amount requested and whether it is for utilities, housing or food. The deadline for applications to be received is Friday, March 31, 2023.

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## Be careful what you consider your 'right'

I hope to make lots of new friends today by reminding Hoosiers of something: You do not have a right to food, shelter or health care.

Before I am accused of being selfish and heartless, which I assuredly will be, let's try to make a distinction.

Yes, you do need those things if you are to have any chance of a meaningful existence. And maybe, as a fellow human being, I should help provide them for you if you can't do it all yourself.

Call it a moral obligation, perhaps. Or my duty as a good citizen. Or simply my implied commitment as a member of the same community in which we have shared values.

But they are not your right.

What triggered this rant was an opinion piece distributed by the Capital Chronicle news service. It declared that Indiana has the highest single-housing cost burden in all Midwest states for the lowest-income residents, and detailed how the state was far friendlier to landlords than tenants and lamented the lack of "affordable housing" here.

We can accept all that as true and have a good discussion about what should be done about it. But the article lost me in the way it was framed: "Housing is not a human right in Indiana," the headline screamed.

Nor anywhere else, I thought.

Rights, properly understood, at least in connection with this country's foundational concepts, belong to all of us. We have them simply because we are human — call them natural or God-given depending on your philosophy. And they are inalienable; they cannot be taken away. The purpose of government, in fact, is not to dispense rights, but to protect those rights we already have — to life, liberty, property, the pursuit of happiness.

And the most important part of a right: Exercising it does not require anybody else to give up a right. My claim to liberty does not require you to relinquish yours. Your pursuit of happiness does not negate my pursuit of happiness. Our only obligation is to respect each other's rights.

That is the very concept of rights that this nation was built upon — negative rights, that is, a delineation of where government may not tread.

But then came a whole school of thought, stressed by presidents like Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt and carried on by ones like Barack Obama and Joe Biden, that declares a commitment to positive rights. We should not just define areas the government should stay out of, but also look to it to provide the things we need.

But those "rights" do not pre-exist; they are created by institutions. They certainly are not inalienable — they can be removed on a whim, as easily as they are granted.

And, most important, they do take away from others. Any exercise of a positive right creates an obligation on somebody else's part.

If you have the right to food, somebody must grow it for you and distribute it to you. If you have the right for shelter, someone must build it. If you have the right to medical care, someone must provide it.

And someone must pay for it all. Any assertion of a "positive right" is a claim against the community as a whole.

You may think I'm making too fine a distinction here. We just need to identify what human beings need to have dignity in their lives and figure out how to provide it, not nitpick over definitions.

Perhaps I am. If I'd lived in Victorian England and witnessed the brutal inhumanity visited upon the poor, I might have flirted with socialism. I think any decent person would have.

But words matter. The more we cheapen the concept of what a right is, the more we accept the government as arbiter of what we deserve to have, and the further we drift away from freedom. The more of it we give up, the less we will notice when it keeps eroding.

We are already at the point where the predominant political philosophy is, "I want what I want when I want it and how I want it." Believe it or not, that is not that far away from, "You'll take what we give you and like it."

We should be careful of what we ask for, and of whom we ask it. Our right to the pursuit of happiness includes the option of being stupid. Let's please not be.

Leo Morris is a Fort Wayne-based columnist for The Indiana Policy Review. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Fax: (260) 824-0700 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. **Letters must be no more than 500 words.** Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

## Today in History

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Thursday, March 16, the 75th day of 2023. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On March 16, 1968, the My Lai massacre took place during the Vietnam War as U.S. Army soldiers hunting for Viet Cong fighters and sympathizers killed unarmed villagers in two hamlets of Son My village; estimates of the death toll vary from 347 to 504.

On this date:  
In 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew reached the Philippines, where Magellan was killed during a battle with natives the following month.

In 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed a measure authorizing the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler decided to break the military terms set by the Treaty of Versailles by ordering the rearming of Germany.

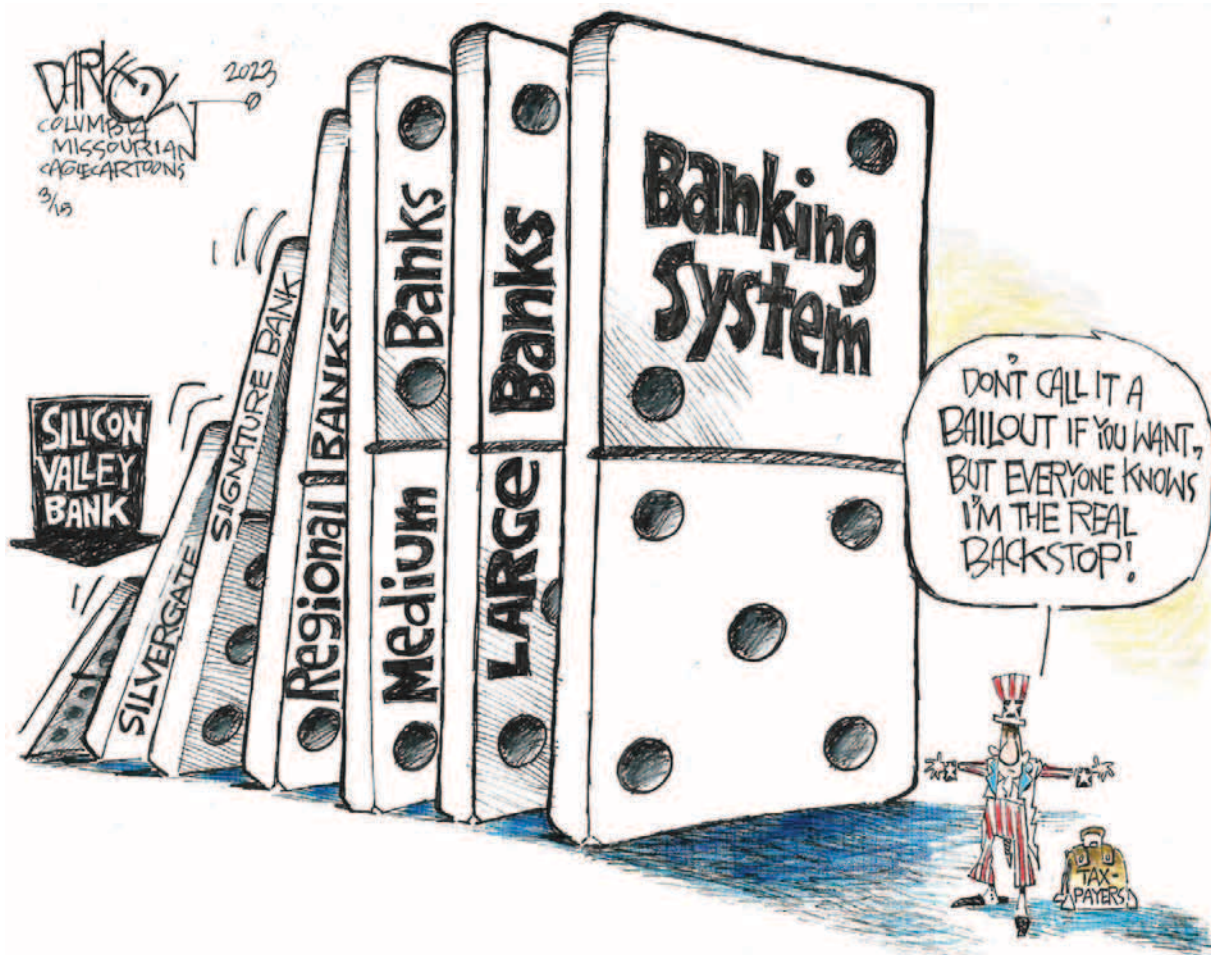
In 1945, during World War II, American forces declared they had secured Iwo Jima, although pockets of Japanese resistance remained.

In 1972, in a nationally broadcast address, President Richard Nixon called for a moratorium on court-ordered school busing to achieve racial desegregation.



Leo Morris

## Hoosier Opinions



## More government, less reality

President Ronald Reagan once said, "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are 'I'm from the government, and I'm here to help.'"

Shock waves are rippling through the country after the announcement of the second largest bank failure in the country's history last week — Silicon Valley Bank.

This just 15 years after the largest bank failure in the country's history — Washington Mutual.

Research shows that the great collapse in 2008, one casualty of which was Washington Mutual, was one more example of the damage done by excessive government.

Then, standards for issuing mortgages deteriorated as a result of pressure from government entities Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Department of Housing and Urban Development on lenders to meet affordable housing goals. More and more substandard loans were issued, all taking place under the illusion of government protection, until the house of cards came down.

After the total collapse, originating in government policy designed to allegedly make our lives better, the Dodd-Frank Act was passed, now with some 8,000 pages of regulations to supposedly strengthen America's financial system.

Time and again, a crisis caused by government is supposedly solved by creating even more government.

So now, with the Dodd-Frank Act in place, passed under the pretense of "solving" the problems of instability in our financial system, here we are again.

I make no claims as any kind of expert in finance. But reading through articles by those who are, the amazing story that emerges behind SVB is its violation of principles that any undergraduate student in business learns. That is, banks make a profit by lending, investing at higher rates of interest than they pay on deposits.

So, managing interest rate risk is finance 101. Yet mismanagement of risk — the bank ignoring huge problems they would have if interest rates increased — is what brought it down.

How can it be that people who are allegedly smart do things that are incredibly stupid? I attribute it to a detachment from reality. Detachment from reality is



Star Parker

a direct symptom of a lot of government and politicization of our lives.

After the 2008 crisis, there were major government bailouts. This builds into the mentality of a culture that if you are big enough, government will not let you fail. And if you believe government will not let you fail, that government is your friend, you tend to do stupid, irresponsible things.

On top of this, when government passes laws like Dodd-Frank, it builds an attitude in the culture that the problem has been solved. In this case, that the regulatory system was put in place under which banks won't fail.

As our culture becomes more deeply mired in a sense that our lives get better with more government and politics, more and more business people become detached from reality.

In this case, over recent years, "woke" culture has become rooted more and more deeply in business, particularly high-tech companies, a major customer base of Silicon Valley Bank.

Woke and ESG investment guidelines — environmental, social and governance — seems to have captured more attention at Silicon Valley Bank than the risk management essential to running their business.

The proxy statement of the bank, writes Wall Street Journal columnist Andy Kessler, notes that the board is "45 percent women" and there is "1 Black ... 1 LGBTQ+ ... and 2 Veterans. I'm not saying 12 white men would have avoided this mess," he continued, "but the company may have been distracted by diversity demands."

Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy notes that SVB announced in 2022 committing \$5 billion in "sustainable finance and carbon neutral operations to support a healthier planet."

Worth adding to the picture is that the interest rate increases that SVB did not anticipate resulted from the inflation generated by trillions of dollars of government spending during COVID.

Now, fellow citizens, hold on to your wallets as our government bails out SVB, despite Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen saying it won't happen.

The only good news is it increases prospects for a Republican victory in 2024.

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## 'Tis Golden Tortoise Beetle b'golly

Folks doon at the pub would have a craic over hearing this story of ye ol' beetle as a St. Patty's Day tribute. "He's talkin' a load of Blarney," say ye a patron. "To be sure, to be sure," would reply ye bonny bar maid. "Sláinte!" the pub crowd would shout, and then they'd all guffaw and laugh.

With spring yet a few days off, celebrated come Monday, to be sure, to be sure, Angelkeep, with a quarter Irish ancestry, found hisself "actin' the maggot" as it did all winter long, refusin' to accept what was and dwellin' on the wonders of ye past summertime.

"Looks at the state o' yourself," Gwen pointed out many ere occasion iff in a forlorn stare lingered much to lang at the patio rockin' chair 'n the fire pan full o' snow, not ye blazin' logs.

"Don't be breakin' your shin on a stool that's no in ye way," old Paddy would say.

But summer memories live on in the mind, to be sure, though as every member of the clan remembers, ye ne'er plough a field by turnin' it o'er in ye mind. That's never stopped Angelkeep.

Last summer, and rememberin' hinesight's ta best insight to foresight, photos remained of a bug leavin' a lastin' memory of ye olde lucky pot o' gold. 'Twas floatin' in a green bucket o' rain water, as green a bucket as a thousand shamrocks. Golden 'twas, bright 'n shinny, like a nugget from the pot at the end of the

rainbow. It shone a happy brilliance, 'n that a recollection of a nither olde Irish blessin', "May your heart be light and happy, may your smile be big and wide, and

## Angelkeep Journals

may your pocket always have a coin or two inside."

The golden and emerald green bug was saved from drownin' and spoken to via the Irish proverb, "Do not resent growing old, many are denied the privilege." Released, 'twas, after more pics, then research needed for identification. As me Irish grandpap's grandpap once said, "Wisdom is the comb given to a man after he has lost his hair." Internet combed wisdom of unknown insects.

It was a Golden Tortoise Beetle, for sure. The outer shell, in reality elytra, was clear, the shamrock green bucket had only given the reflective appearance of that color. The glistening gold was as true as a nugget in a leprechaun's purse.

A bright golden tortoise beetle, Measured but six millimeter. Like glass was its back, Gold wings under that, Freckled dot rows did adorn her. This amazing creature, God's

gold, to be sure, can change from a reddish brown to the metallic-like shiny gold when disturbed. Also when in love. It did darken down some after being rescued from the watery grave of bucketed rain water. Sometimes called Goldbug, it might play dead when disturbed.

This Charidotella sexpunctata bug was said to be native to America, not Eire. It had never again been seen, reminding Angelkeep of the old Eire proverb, "An rud is annamh is iontach," and for those nay with the Gaelic, "the thing that is seldom is wonderful." They were said to enjoy dining on bindweed and morning glory, Angelkeep a provider of both in abundance, and a wee good bit happy to have help in their invasive control.

'Twas right-as-Irish to save wee Golden Tortoise Beetle for Angelkeep Journals' introduction just before St. Patrick's Day. Angelkeep wishes GTB a long life, survival of winter, and a happy spring. Angelkeep reminiscences yet a nither old Irish blessin', "May you live to be 100 years, and one extra year to repent."

Er have ye heard: "Here's to eyes in your heads and nay in your spuds." "There is no such thing as bad publicity except your own obituary." "If it's drownin' ye're after, don't torment yerself with shallow water."

And mayhap Gwen's fave: "Men are like bagpipes — no sound comes from them until they are full."

Sláinte!  
Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it "Angelkeep."



Alan Daugherty

## The News-Banner

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# An interesting and a stressful week – with an éclair dessert

How can a Sunday afternoon possibly be so relaxing after what seemed like such an eventful week? The past week blends into something like a haze lined with touches of God's goodness in degrees of which I trusted or worried.

You know how it goes, first grader Hosanna sprains her ankle while jumping on the trampoline. Next little Joshua twists his foot while taking a bike ride, then hangs onto Mama every bit of his waking hours. Yes, there's also a fatigued Mama. Daniel's oldest brother Tobias and his wife, along with their two sweet children came for a four-day visit, blessing us without end. Tobias even made a pair of the most adorable crutches for little Hosanna. A lady's retreat in Indiana, which I planned to attend, was to be Friday and Saturday. Finding baby sitters to watch the children while Mama was gone for a day and a half came next. I clutched my head, wondering if I should even consider to go or not.



Honestly, if I knew I'd have to relive the week, I'd cry. Neither would I choose to have it differently. Doesn't God have a way of twisting things all for good? Often after the hardest comes the best.

The ladies' retreat left me much encouraged. A hundred wives and mothers gathered as we shared, sang, soaked in topics by other women. To say the least it was good for me, it brought me back to the reality that every person around me is also living a real life with real challenges.

Sometimes I sigh, next I grin to myself, wondering what may be around the next curve. We ought to fasten our seat belts and let God take us where he wants us, no matter the cost or how much it hurts.

I admit, as I think of next week,

it doesn't look like an easy path, either. Next Sunday marks 13 years since Daniel and I were united in marriage. God blessed me with so much more than I deserved as he granted me 12 years of serving as his wife (or help-mate, as I loved looking at it). As you can imagine, this year, March 19 holds an entirely different slant from recent years.

I often wonder and ponder on what Daniel would tell us if he could come back for a short season to tell us what Heaven is like and what this stage called 'life' looks from Heaven's gates.

In my limited imagination, I see him telling us it's worth it way beyond than what we can grasp and that this life will be over that much quicker than we think. Wouldn't he also assure us that these trials which now are so real and difficult, can be swiped away by the hand of God, as hearts trust him utterly and completely?

Little Joshua, who was only a

year old when Daddy died, is trying to piece everything together. It's hard to grasp that though Daddy cannot come back to life as it was a year ago and that as we obey God, one day we will actually go to him. Recently when Joshua was waking from his nap Julia excitedly asked him, "Who do you think is here?!" (Referring to Aunt Mary.)

His delighted response came, "Daddy!!"

My heart broke, yet in my mind I recall how Daniel and I together dedicated our children to God, no matter the cost, and I know without a doubt, that even little Joshua will be cared for by God, his Father in heaven.

OK, I'll wrap up, sharing a light and tasty dessert. This dessert was something Daniel enjoyed and was first introduced to us by friends from Allen County, Indiana.

### Eclair Dessert

**Crust:**  
1 1/4 cup boiling water  
3/4 cup butter

1/4 cup flour  
1/4 tsp. salt  
5 eggs  
**Filling:**  
1 cup vanilla instant pudding  
3 cups milk  
1-8 oz. pkg. cream cheese  
16 oz. cool whip  
**Instructions**  
Place water and butter in a small sauce pan. Heat over medium heat until butter has melted.

Add flour, salt, and eggs one at a time, whisking after each egg. Press into a greased 13 by 18 inch pan. Bake at 400 for 25 minutes.

It will rise as it bakes then go back down after removed from the oven, looking a bit humpy.

For the filling, beat all the ingredients. Pour and spread onto cooled crust.

Spread 2-3 cups of your favorite pie filling such as apple, blueberry, pumpkin, chocolate, or whatever on top of pudding mixture. (Or if you prefer drizzle with chocolate syrup instead.) Chill and serve.

## Area Things to See and Do

### ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE

"A Peculiar People," April 21-23 and 28-30. www.allforonelfw.org

### ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Monster Trucks, March 18; Koe Wetzel "The Road To Hell Paso" with The Cadillac Three and Dylan Wheeler, March 23; Lucky Duck Children's Consignment Sale, March 23-26; Shiphewana on the Road, March 25-26. www.memorialcoliseum.com

### ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE

"No Sex Please, We're British," through March 25. Info: www.arenadinnertheatre.org

### CLYDE THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Jim Messina, March 26; Ben Folds, March 28; Queensryche, March 29; Static X, March 31. ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

### EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Raheen DeV Vaughn, March 17; Riverdance, March 23; Pink Droyd, March 25; "Our Planet Live in Concert," April 7. Box office hours 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Info at www.fwembassytheatre.org

### FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," March 23-25. University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center. Tickets at fireandlightproductions.com

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER, FORT WAYNE

"Godspell," March 24, 25, and 26.

Tickets: 250-422-6329 and www.first-presbyteriantheater.com

### FOELLINGER-FREIMANN BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

"California Dreamin'," focusing on the sun, sand, and surf of a vacation in the Golden State, is now on display. 1100 S. Calhoun St. in Fort Wayne. www.botanicalconservatory.org

### FOELLINGER OUTDOOR THEATER, FORT WAYNE

No shows until June. Info: (260) 427-6715 or FortWayneParks.org

### FORT WAYNE ARTLINK

www.artlinkfw.com

### FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)," March 17-April 2. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcivic.org

### FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

Tuesday through Saturday and until 8 p.m. on Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

### FORT WAYNE YOUTH THEATRE

"Aesop's Fables," April 2023. artstix.org

### FURTH CENTER — ANGOLA

Herman's Hermit's, March 17. Info at trine.edu/furth

### HONEYWELL CENTER and EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH

Honeywell: Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band, March 22; Beauty & the Beast on Ice, March 31; Chapel Hart: April 1. Sweetwater All-Stars, April 21. www.honeywell.center.org

### NISWONGER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER,

### VAN WERT, OHIO

Enrich Community Concert Series, March 19; The Stepcrew, March 19; Chapel Hart Glory Days Tour, March 31; Sister Hazel, April 1. Info: NPACVW.org

### PURDUE-FORT WAYNE THEATER

"Little Women, the Musical," April 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22. Productions at Williams Theatre on the Purdue-FW campus; tickets at Purdue box office, 260-481-6555.

### SCIENCE CENTRAL, FORT WAYNE

1950 N. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Info at 260-424-2400 or at www.science-central.org

### SWEETWATER SOUND, FORT WAYNE

Tickets: 800-514-3849 or eTix

### WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW

Community Theater, "The Phantom of the Wagon Wheel," April 27-30. Tickets 866-923-2618 or wagonwheel-center.org

### ABCINEMA, DECATUR

130 W. Monroe St., Decatur. Information: www.abcinemainc.com or 260-724-SHOW

### BAKER STREET CENTER FORT WAYNE

"Kiss the Sky — The Jimi Hendrix Re-Experience," March 25; "Neil Diamond Superstar — Jack Wright's Live Concert Experience," April 16. www.bakerstreetcenter.com



### History of schools book presentation

Members of the Wells County Historical Society are shown presenting a copy of "The History of Wells County Public Schools: 1837-2022" to Jason Habegger, Indiana Room/Adult Services Manager. Making the presentation were the book's authors Lynn Elliott, Connie Brubaker and Marcia Hotopp. The authors will be presenting a program at the Bluffton library at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, about the information in their book and signing copies. Registration to attend is appreciated at www.wellscolibrary.org or to 260-824-1612. (Photo provided)

### Spots open in naturalist class

A few chairs are open for students in the Indiana Master Naturalist Class that will be held at Ouabache State Park beginning March 30.

All classes will be held on Thursdays from noon to 3 p.m. through May 25. The cost is \$75, which includes admission to the park.

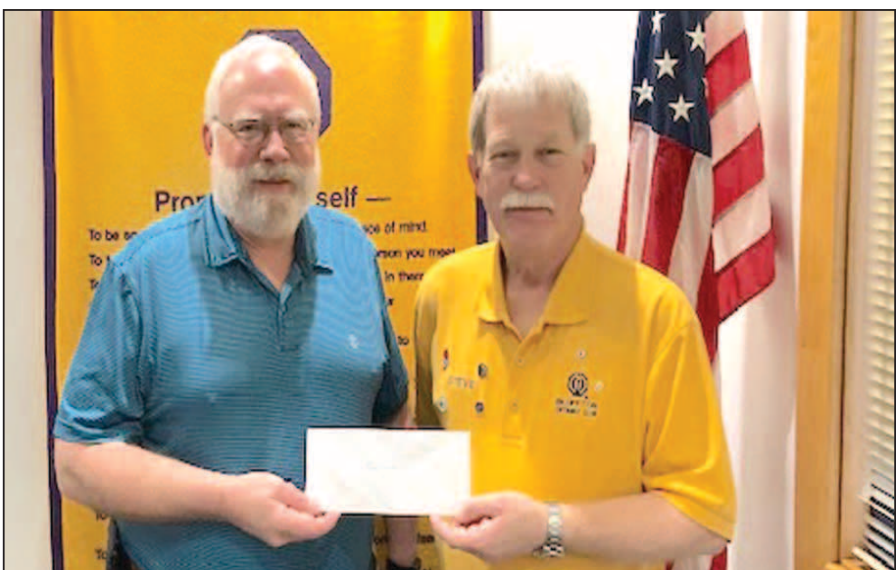
Reservations are needed by March 26 to Jody Heaston, Indiana State Park volunteer coordinator, at jheaston@dnr.in.gov

Reservations may also be made by calling 463-203-6552.



### Presenting a \$10,000 check

Representatives of Valero Renewable's of Bluffton, at right, recently presented a \$10,000 check to Wells Community Boys & Girls Club Director Vicki Bell and some of the kids and staff (Alicia, Orion, Sydney, Abby, Margo, Simon, David and Ryan, at the left). This year the funds were made possible through funds raised at the Valero Texas Open, a PGA event, and Valero Benefit for Children. The tournament and associated events generated \$22 million in net proceeds for charitable organizations across the country. Making the presentation were Shawn Stafford, Valero Engineering manager; Bruce Snyder, Valero QA/QC manager; and Justin Moen, Valero Plant Manager. Moen explained that "Right now, charity wins every round in Bluffton. We are proud to partner with this agency and work together to improve children's lives in Bluffton." (Photo provided)



### Optimists donate to Scouts

Gary Merritt, secretary-treasurer of the Bluffton Optimist Club, presents a check to Steve Higgins, Wabash Valley District executive of the Boy Scouts of America, Anthony Wayne Area Council. The \$250 donation will assist with the program in Wells County. The donation was made possible thanks to the community support of the Optimist Club's annual 4-H Fair pork chop dinner and its winter pizza sale. (Photo provided)

# Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR</b> SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	<b>Daniel's JEWELERS</b> daniels-jewelers.net	<b>KELLY'S COLLISION CENTER, INC.</b> 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com	<b>FISHER'S GARAGE DOORS</b> fishersgaragedoors.com
<b>3RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org	<b>Myers FUNERAL HOMES</b> myersfuneralhomes.com	<b>STEFFEN GROUP REAL ESTATE &amp; AUCTIONS</b> steffengroup.com	<b>STEFFEN Financial Group</b> steffinancial.com
<b>Riverstone DENTAL</b> riverstonedental.net	<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com	<b>HERITAGE POINTE COMMUNITIES</b> www.lifeheritage.org	<b>MOSER &amp; SON</b> Heating & Air 824-0228 219 E. Perry St. Bluffton Find Us On Facebook
<b>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS</b> icav.us	<b>HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP</b> hidaymotors.com	<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com	<b>State Farm</b> Erin Daugherty 260.827.0527 www.myblufftonagent.com
<b>Lengerich MEATS</b> lengerichmeats.com	<b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	<b>LaFontaine Center</b> A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org	<b>HOME COURT HOME CARE</b> homecourthomecare.com
<b>Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY</b> stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	<b>bi-countyservices.com</b> bi-countyservices.com	<b>Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home</b> thomarich.com	<b>NBDigital</b> nb-digital.com

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High School Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 16 No events scheduled. FRIDAY, MARCH 17 No events scheduled. SATURDAY, MARCH 18 No events scheduled. MONDAY, MARCH 20 No events scheduled. TUESDAY, MARCH 21 No events scheduled. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 No events scheduled. THURSDAY, MARCH 23 No events scheduled. FRIDAY, MARCH 24 No events scheduled. SATURDAY, MARCH 25 No events scheduled.



Attendees for Jake Parker's signing are, from left to right, top row: Michael Fenters, Derek Gay, and Adam Prater. Bottom row: David Parker, Jake Parker, and Hollie Parker. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Lions re-sign DE John Cominsky to add to busy free agent week

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writer ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — The Detroit Lions took another step in shaping their roster during an active week in free agency, re-signing defensive end John Cominsky to a two-year deal. Detroit announced the move Wednesday. The Lions kicked off the week by filling perhaps their biggest need, agreeing to a \$33 million, three-year contract with cornerback Cameron Sutton and later bolstered the position with Emmanuel Moseley on a \$6 million, one-year contract. Detroit decided David Montgomery will join D'Andre Swift in the backfield, choosing to agree to an \$18 million, three-year contract with the former Chicago Bear instead of re-signing Jamaal Williams after his career year. The Lions ranked among the league's worst defenses last season, but have re-signed players they believe can help the unit turn around with the help of additions in free agency and the draft. Detroit agreed to have veteran linebacker Alex Anzalone anchor the middle of the defense, investing nearly \$19 million in him over three years, and brought back defensive tackle Isaiah Buggs. The Lions have some young, promising pass rushers and Cominsky adds some experience to the group. Cominsky had a career-high four sacks last season, his fourth in the NFL. He started in eight games and played in six as a key backup, helping Detroit win eight of its last 10 games to finish with a winning record for the first time since 2017 in coach Dan Campbell's second season. Atlanta drafted Cominsky in the fourth round four years ago out of the University of Charleston in West Virginia. He started in one game and played in a total of 27 over three seasons for the Falcons, getting 1 1/2 sacks and and 41 tackles.

Parker inks letter of intent to run hurdles at Taylor

By RYAN WALKER Taylor University gained yet another Norwell Knight to its 2023 recruiting class. This time, it was Jake Parker's turn, inking the next four years off to the track and field team Wednesday afternoon. Parker joins football signees Luke Graft and Kyle Zeddis to Taylor this fall, but the Trojan purple runs within Parker a little closer than just his friends. His father, David Parker, ran hurdles for Taylor when he was in school. Jake will follow the same path and also be a hurdler. "Both of my parents went there, so it's just kind of always been in my blood — my aunts and uncles went there," Jake Parker said. "I went down there to visit, and everything just kind of clicked for me. The coaches, the teammates, the track program, the school itself, I just like every aspect of it. Perfect fit." The track season has just begun for Norwell, recently placing 14th of 26 schools at the Bulldog Invitational at Purdue Fort Wayne's indoor track facility. Last season, the team sent two to the state finals; Parker placed 20th in the 110-meter hurdles and Winston Frauhtiger 21st in the high jump. The goal this year is to make it further in both hurdle events. "I'm hoping I'll be able to place in both 110 hurdles and 300 hurdles down at states," Parker said. "That's definitely a big goal for me, and I think I can do it with some good push in myself like that, work hard, and I think it'll happen, hopefully." The Taylor track and field team has been quite successful in recent memory. Last season, the Trojans placed 15th of 77 teams in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The team also competes in the Crossroads League, one of the best track and field conferences in the NAIA. Taylor, Grace, and Indiana Wesleyan placed in the top-15 in the championship meet. Bethel, Huntington, Mount Vernon Nazarene, and Marian also made the trip down to Gulf Shores. Along with Parker's parents, other family members, and friends, Taylor head coach Derek Gay, who works with mainly sprinters and hurdlers, and Norwell head coach Adam Prater were in attendance. Prater has been a mentor for Parker, and it meant a lot to the senior to have him for his big moment. "Awesome. (He's) just pushed me and helped me to get to where I am today, so it's been really cool. He's gotten me to where I am today. I really appreciate him coming up for sure," he said. sports@news-banner.com

Healthy Holmes gives Indiana women best tournament shot

By MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Indiana center Mackenzie Holmes spent a whole year working so she could take one more shot at an NCAA championship. She committed herself to recovering fully from the left knee injury that limited her mobility and productivity last March when the Hoosiers fell short of their title dreams. She promised to come back a better, stronger player. After leading the Hoosiers through an unforgettable season, Holmes finally gets her chance to show everyone she's happy, healthy and capable of helping Indiana meet the lofty expectations that come with being a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament. "I think it's really cool to see different teams getting those one-seeds and just being in those top-10, top-five teams because in years past, it's pretty consistently been the same teams," Holmes said after the pairings were announced Sunday. "So to see how much the game has grown and all these different teams up there has been really cool." Indiana is one of this year's intriguing top-line newcomers and Holmes, of course, is a big reason the Hoosiers are viewed as a legitimate championship contender. Since arriving on campus in 2019-20, the 6-foot-3 Maine native has been a double-digit scorer, a solid rebounder and a team-first player. As Holmes fine-tuned her all-around skills, coach Teri Moren increasingly structured her offense to run through the post. Not surprisingly, Indiana's ascent tracked perfectly with Holmes' improve-



Makenzie Holmes

ments. The Hoosiers jumped from a 10th-place conference finish in 2018-19 to fourth in Holmes' first college season. When Holmes became a full-time starter in Year 2, Indiana finished second in the Big Ten and advanced to the Elite Eight. Last season, with Holmes hobbled, the Hoosiers slipped to a fourth-place conference and lost in the regional semifinals. But in what has undoubtedly been the best of her career, Holmes responded by leading Indiana to unprecedented heights for one obvious reason: She's healthy. "I'm not who I was when I came back from my surgery last season," Holmes said after a February victory. "I learned from it, and I think I'm better because of it." Holmes was named a first-team AP All-American on Wednesday. She'd already earned her third straight all-conference selection, made her second appearance on the league's all-defensive team and was selected as the Big Ten's player of the year. She starts postseason play ranked No. 7 nationally in scoring with a career-best 22.3 points per game, second nationally in field goal percentage at 68.8% and second in the Big Ten with 1.9 blocks. Holmes and her teammates never measured success by individual stat lines and that perspective has helped them produce the best season in school history. Indiana (27-3) broke the program record for overall wins and tied the mark for conference wins (16). It finished the season ranked a program-best No. 2, set four new single-game home attendance marks capped by the first-ever Assembly Hall sellout as the Hoosiers celebrated their first regular-season conference crown since 1982-83. "A lot of the credit goes to Grace (Berger) and coach Moren and Mac, they built this program," said Sydney Parrish, Indiana's 2020 Indiana Miss Basketball who transferred back to her home state from Oregon before this season. "They're the ones that did this. They built it from the bottom, a program that wasn't much at the start." They're not finished, either. On Saturday, Indiana hosts NCAA tourney games for the second straight season and the second time in school history. They'll face either Tennessee Tech (22-9) or Monmouth (18-15), who meet in Thursday's play-in game. Eighth-seeded Oklahoma State (21-11) and ninth-seeded Miami (19-12) meet in Saturday's second game. Could all of this have happened last season had Holmes not needed midseason surgery? "Once Mac got hurt, she wasn't quite 100%," Moren said last fall. "So I think in retrospect, when we look back at what could have been different — if Mac would have been 100% — could we have won a Big Ten championship? I think we could have." The Hoosiers have never been big on reflection and they're not about to start now as they step into the national spotlight with Holmes and Berger, the scrappy fifth-year guard, playing the leading roles. Instead, Indiana intends to rely on its nimble centerpiece as long as possible. "I know there are a lot of good post (players) in the country, but there's none better than the one that lives in Bloomington right now," Purdue coach Katie Geardls said. "If they stay healthy, if they stay out of foul trouble, there's a good chance we see this team in Dallas."



Arizona State's big first half buries Nevada in First Four

By MITCH STACY AP Sports Writer DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — DJ Horne had 20 points and Arizona State raced to a big halftime lead and scored the most points ever in a First Four game, burying Nevada 98-73 on Wednesday night. Desmond Cambridge Jr. — a Nevada transfer — scored 17 points as Arizona State (23-12) led 53-26 at the half and then kept up the pressure on the way to the rout. The first-half output was a season high for Arizona State, which advanced as a No. 11 seed to face TCU in a West Region first-round game on Friday in Denver. Arizona State hit 67.7% of its shots from the floor and forced 10 turnovers in the first half, piling up a 22-2 run over eight minutes to pull away, mean-

Fairleigh Dickinson beats Texas Southern in First Four

By JACOB BERGE Associated Press DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Ansley Almonor scored 23 points and Fairleigh Dickinson beat Texas Southern 84-61 Wednesday night to earn its first NCAA Tournament win in four seasons. The Knights held a 14-2 lead after a 12-0 run in the opening 3:29 and didn't never gave up the lead. Grant Singleton scored seven points during a 19-6 run in which the Knights led by as many as 18 points at the end of the first half. Jordan Gilliam made a jumper that got Texas Southern as close as 10 points with 10:01 left in the second half. The Tigers shot 42% and went 1 for 17 from 3-point distance. Fairleigh Dickinson shot 50% and advanced to the East Region to play top-seeded Purdue in Columbus, Ohio, on Friday. Joe Munden Jr. scored 17 points, Demetre Roberts had 15, Singleton finished with 13 and Sean Moore 10 for Fairleigh Dickinson (20-15). John Walker III led Texas Southern (14-21) with 22 points. Joirdon Karl Nicholas added 10. BIG PICTURE Fairleigh Dickinson: First-year coach Tobin Anderson turned around a Knights squad that went 4-22 a season ago. UP NEXT Fairleigh Dickinson will play Purdue on Friday.

Fox hits 3 to lift Kings over Bulls

By MATT CARLSON Associated Press CHICAGO (AP) — De'Aaron Fox hit a 3-pointer with 0.7 seconds left to give the Sacramento Kings a 117-114 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night. Fox scored 32 points on 12-for-17 shooting, hitting four 3-pointers. Domantas Sabonis had his second straight triple-double and 11th of the season — finishing with 14 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists — and Sacramento roared back in the second half with hot 3-point shooting. Malik Monk had 19 points, going 5 for 8 on 3s as the Kings overcame a 10-point halftime deficit to win for the fourth time in five and improve to 9-2 in their last 11. DeMar DeRozan led Chicago with 33 points and hit a 3-pointer from the top of the arc with 11.6 seconds left to cut the Kings' lead to 114-113. He was fouled by Harrison Barnes and completed a four-point play to tie it. Zach LaVine added 25 points, and Nikola Vucevic had 20 points and 14 rebounds. Chicago closed it to 113-110 on LaVine's dunk with 17.8 seconds left. Kessler Edwards hit just one of two free throws after being fouled by DeRozan to give Sacramento a four-point lead with 15.7 to go. UP NEXT Kings: At Brooklyn on Thursday night Bulls: Host Minnesota on Friday night.



Father playing favorites is destroying my family

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: I am writing because I don't know how I ended up so unhappy. Part of me is angry for letting this go on for decades, while other parts of me keep hoping my husband will see what he has — an amazing family!

to decide what kind of relationship they want with their father. Keep telling them you love them. Have conversations with them regarding their father's behavior, and don't make excuses for him.

Fast-forward to marriage. We had a honeymoon baby, who my husband has hated since conception. This has all but destroyed this child.

You and your husband should absolutely push through with therapy if you expect to resolve any of these issues. Sometimes it takes a couple of different therapists and a matter of months or years before seeing the progress that you want — but you won't get there if you don't keep trying.

Next came three more kids over the next 10 years. The second is the golden child to my husband. The third child he tolerates, and the fourth my husband hates as much as the first.

This has clearly been taxing on your children as well, and I'm guessing they are experiencing intense feelings of anger and confusion. Help them find therapists, too. Psychology Today has a great online resource where you can search therapists in your area and filter by insurance, among other factors.

Part of me is ready to walk away. I feel life is passing me by, and I am not sure how much more I can honestly take. We have tried counseling, but my husband has the ability to never take the blame or acknowledge his part in any of this.

Healing is hard work, but it is always worth it. If your husband is unwilling to put in the work, then it might be time to walk away.

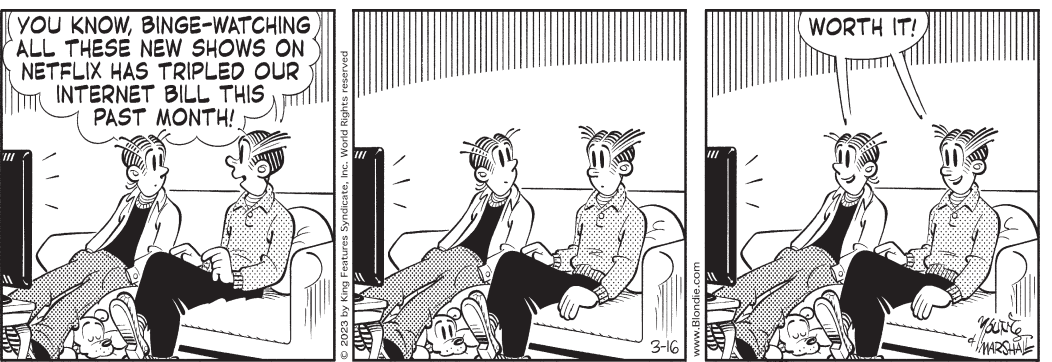
Dear Sad in the States: Your husband is not being fair to anyone, and he is in serious need of therapy. If your children were still in the house, I would encourage you to remove them from their father's toxic influence.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information.

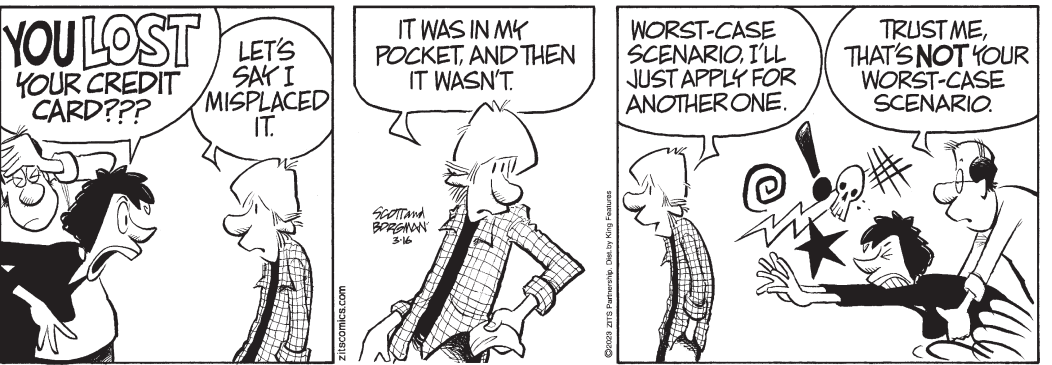
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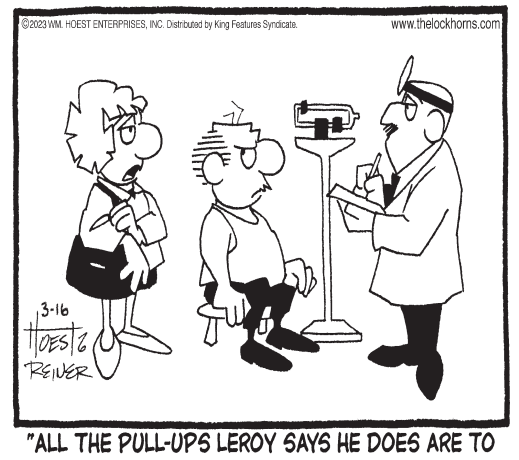
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Lack of discipline and conflict prevent happy homes

Q: My husband and I have been married three years and the relationship hasn't grown strong; it has diminished. My mother tells me that I don't help the situation with my sharp tongue. Doesn't the Bible command a husband to love his wife no matter what? — Y.M.

in families, marriages, children, and all relationships. His Word shows us the ideals and the goals within families and friendships.

not be. Marriage is a uniting of three persons — the man, the woman, and God. Gardens don't grow by themselves. They need to be tended and weeded. The same is true of marriage.

A: How many marriages have been destroyed because of criticism that spiraled out of control? How many relationships have broken down because of a word spoken thoughtlessly or in anger? A harsh word can't be taken back; no apology can fully repair its damage.

The home, in particular, is a sacred institution. Faith in Christ is the most important relationship and this should be clearly lived out in home life. God declared marriage to be good, but it is under tremendous attack today by society. Couples have a tremendous opportunity to live a testimony of love, respect, and acceptance before a lost world.

Some of the most healing words in any language are, "I'm sorry, will you forgive me?" Practicing discipline of the tongue and speaking in love from the heart helps build strong and healthy relationships. We should say nothing that we would not wish to say in the presence of Jesus Christ. Oh, that His words would be on the tongues of those who love Him.

A lack of discipline and conflict prevent happy homes. God is interested

Marriage is the most serious long-term contract a couple will make in their lifetime, but many enter into it with a lack of maturity and knowledge. Thousands of young people go through life with a loveless marriage. This should

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Charitable donation, 5 Pasta sauce brand, 9 Sched. placeholder, 12 Check, 13 Son of Seth, 14 Pie mode, 15 Relaxes, 17 Deleted, 18 Bed linens, 19 Singer Wainwright, 21 Egyptian sun god, 22 Green sauce, 24 New newts, 27 Brady Bunch girl, 28 Thus, 31 Sailor, 32 Moreover, 33 Unruly group, 34 Goblet feature, 36 Moines, 37 Wine region. DOWN 1 and athlete, 2 Wife of Jacob, 3 Karaoke prop, 4 Derisive looks, 5 Boxing arbiters, 6 Black-bird, 7 Head of st., 8 Software custom-ers, 9 IRS documents, 10 cheese dressing, 11 Root beer brand, 16 Depot (Abbr.), 20 Salt Lake, 22 Talk show group, 23 Termini pilots, 25 Corpulent, 26 Rainforest amphibian, 27 Green gem, 29 Acquired, 30 Kimono closer, 35 1011, to Caesar, 37 Composer Schoenberg, 39 Peony part, 40 Klutz, 41 Help a hood, 42 Dalai — traction, 44 Zwei follower, 45 Nobel Prize subj., 46 Kick back, 49 Expert, 50 Juan

Table with 12 columns (Time slots: 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30) and 24 rows (Channels: WINM, CBS WANE, Antenna WANE-2, ABC WPTA, NBC WPTA-2, MNT WPTA-3, CW WISE, PBS WFWA, PBS WWPB, FOX WFFT, CABLE CHANNELS, LIFE, FX, TVLAND, E!, PARM, ESPN, ESPN2, FSWM, USA, DISC, TLC, HIST, A&E, HALL, SVFY, TBS, TNT, AMC, COM, WGN, FSN, W51, W53, W57, W59, BRAVO, NICK, DISCN, FREEFORM, HBO, MAX, SHOW, TMC)

Table with 11 columns (Days: 1-11) and 11 rows (Days: 1-11) showing a calendar or schedule.



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## SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

### King Classic Sudoku

		8	9	2				
2	6	9						5
	1							7
	5			6		4	1	
		4			5			9
	9		3	7		5		6
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4			1	6	7			

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Difficulty: ★★★

3-16

## REAL ESTATE

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### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS 2/10/2023

Notice is hereby given that the BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 28th day of March, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comment on the request of Travis & Jennifer Kinyo, 2980 E 200 S, Bluffton, IN 46714 for the purpose of a Variance.

**Current Zoning: A-1 Proposed Variance:** To decrease the side yard setback from 20' to 1' for an accessory structure.

**Common Location:** The subject property is located at 2980 E 200 S, Bluffton, Indiana, 46714.

Brief Legal: The subject property is described as 3 acres in the NE quarter of Section 16 Township 26N Range 12E in Harrison Township.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2023

WELLS COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., Director

oj, nb 3/16  
hspaxlp

### Uniondale Civil Town, Wells County, Indiana Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2022

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan 1, 2022	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec 31, 2022
<b>Governmental Activities</b>					
0	General	\$61,736.22	\$80,736.42	\$81,023.36	\$61,449.28
0	Motor Vehicle Highway	\$46,340.56	\$12,056.06	\$13,522.08	\$44,874.54
0	Local Road And Street	\$21,955.99	\$9,627.10	\$0.00	\$31,583.09
0	Riverboat	\$31,584.79	\$1,526.09	\$0.00	\$33,110.88
0	Rainy Day	\$9,299.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,299.65
0	Cumulative Capital Development	\$5,760.74	\$2,296.86	\$2,000.00	\$6,057.60
0	Cedit Capital Projects	\$20,385.93	\$4,965.00	\$444.00	\$24,906.93
0	Gift	\$2,511.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,511.85
012	Community Capital Improvement	\$5,609.95	\$491.86	\$550.00	\$5,551.81
<b>Wastewater</b>					
0001	Wastewater - Utility Operating	\$151,926.75	\$100,226.07	\$96,224.09	\$155,928.73
002	Bond & Interest (Sinking) Fund	\$26,238.12	\$14,284.85	\$13,731.18	\$26,791.79
4	Wastewater Debt Reserve	\$12,683.69	\$3,244.46	\$0.00	\$15,928.15
	<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$396,034.24</b>	<b>\$229,454.77</b>	<b>\$207,494.71</b>	<b>\$417,994.30</b>

nb 3/16  
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## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

**BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT** Now Hiring! The Bluffton Police Department is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Applicant must be 21 years of age by close of application date, but less than 40; have a high school diploma; two-year college degree or equivalent (60 hours), or three years of work experience in police related field or an ILEA Basic graduate or equivalent. Must provide college transcripts. Applicant must possess and maintain a valid Indiana driver's license and responsible work experience. Applicant must pass a background investigation, written test, physical agility test, oral interview, voice stress examination, required statewide baseline physical and psychological examination and drug test. Applications may be picked up at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E Market St, Bluffton, IN, between the hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or online at [blufftonindiana.net](http://blufftonindiana.net). If you have questions about the application process, you may call the Bluffton Police Department at 260-824-3320, Kyle Randall, Chief of Police. Last day to accept applications will be March 31, 2023

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### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR AREA PLAN COMMISSION 3/17/2023

Notice is hereby given that the AREA PLAN COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 6th day of April, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comment on the request of Biggs, Inc., PO Box 549, Decatur, IN 46733 for the purpose of a Rezoning.

**Current Zoning: B-3 Proposed Rezoning: R-1 Common Location:** The subject property is located at 4.010 in NW corner of SR 1 & David Rd., Ossian, Indiana, 46777

Brief Legal: The subject property is described as 4.010 ac SE/4 9-28-N-12E in Jefferson Township of Wells County.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2023

WELLS COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION  
Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., Director

oj, nb 3/16  
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### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR AREA PLAN COMMISSION 3/17/2023

Notice is hereby given that the AREA PLAN COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 6th day of April, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comment on the request of Biggs, Inc., PO Box 549, Decatur, IN 46733 & DK Development, 10018 N SR 1, Ossian, IN 46777 for the purpose of a Major Subdivision.

**Current Zoning: R-1 & B-3 Proposed Major Subdivision:** 168 Lots

**Common Location:** The subject property is located at NW corner of SR 1 & Davis Rd., Ossian, Indiana, 46777

Brief Legal: The subject property is described as 77.04 acres SE/4 9-28-N-12E in Jefferson Township of Wells County.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2023

WELLS COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION  
Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., Director

oj, nb 3/16  
hspaxlp

## SUDOKU ANSWER

8	9	2	9	1	7	8	4	6
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9	2	9	7	1	8	1	6	8
6	7	8	9	2	1	7	8	9
8	1	7	6	9	8	2	9	7
7	8	2	8	9	9	1	7	4
5	8	8	1	7	4	6	9	2
1	7	9	2	9	6	8	7	8

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## Services

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### Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

**Cash 5** — 11-26-29-30-44  
**Lotto Plus** — 01-02-06-23-42-46  
**Cash4Life** — 10-20-24-47-50, Cash Ball: 04  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 03-06-09-13-14-19-29-41-42-44-47-49-51-57-59-64-66-67-73-74, BE: 59  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 01-03-07, SB: 05  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 00-02-01, SB: 03  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 02-07-01-09, SB: 05  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 01-08-02-00, SB: 03  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 03-06-07-08-14-16-17-19-24-49-52-56-58-60-64-66-75-77-78-80, BE: 77  
**Hoosier Lotto** — 15-22-32-33-39-41  
**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$254 million  
**POWERBALL**  
07-09-46-64-68 Powerball: 03; Power Play: 2x

### Des 1900038 LEGAL NOTICE FOR PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to proceed with a bridge replacement project on State Road (SR) 3 over Salamonie River (Des 1900038), approximately 1.32 miles south of SR 218 near Warren, in Jackson Township, Wells County, Indiana.

This project involves replacing the existing bridge with a 3-span continuous composite prestressed concrete bulb-tee beam bridge, supported by semi-fixed piers, and integral end bents that is approximately 268 feet in length, and has a 44-foot clear roadway width. The typical approach section will involve full-depth pavement replacement and consist of two, 12-foot travel lanes, 1 in each direction, bordered by 10-foot usable shoulders (4-foot paved and 6-foot aggregate). SE Willow Road will have full-depth pavement replacement resulting in two, 10-foot travel lanes, 1 in each direction, bordered by 5-foot usable shoulders (4-foot paved and 1-foot aggregate). The bridge railing offset will match the existing to produce a clear roadway width of 44 feet. Riprap drainage turnouts will be constructed at each bridge corner on SR 3 to direct drainage away from the bridge and into drainage ditches and riprap will be placed along the abutments. Approximately 45 to 55 feet of channel clearing under Spans A and C will occur to level the ground and lay a 6.5-foot-wide wildlife passage consisting of natural sand over stone. In addition, a 120-foot long by 15-inch diameter drainage pipe will be installed on the east side of the SR 3 and SE Willow Road intersection that will run beneath SE Willow Road. The project limits will extend approximately 402 feet north and 439 feet south from the center of the bridge for a total of 841 feet along SR 3.

The need for this project is due to the deteriorating conditions of the existing bridge (003-90-01421A/National Bridge Inventory: 001240) conveying SR 3 over Salamonie River. The April 14, 2021 INDOT Bridge Inspection Report, documented moderate-to-heavy surface scaling to stem with delamination and spalling with exposed rebar at the west widening joint. There is also an unsound patch on both sides of the east widening joint as well as a large area of delamination and spalling in the southwest corner at the west widening joint and the stem has spalling at the east widening joint. Piers 2 and 3 have moderate-to-heavy surface scaling to stem with vertical cracking and delamination at the north face of the west widening joint. In addition, the channel banks are exhibiting major damage caused by erosion with debris build-up within the stream channel. The Bridge Inspection Report gave the bridge an overall condition rating of poor (4 out of 9). Condition ratings range from "0" to "9", with "0" indicating a structure in poor condition and "9" indicating a structure in excellent condition. The purpose of this project is to provide a structurally sufficient bridge on SR 3 over Salamonie River. This project is anticipated to result in an overall bridge condition rating of at least 7, indicating good condition.

Approximately 1,132 acres of permanent right-of-way (ROW) is anticipated to be needed from 6 parcels, primarily consisting of forested property. No temporary ROW will be needed, and this project will not require the displacement or relocation of any residents or businesses.

Impacts to Salamonie River will equal approximately 85 feet and 0.019 acre of permanent impacts due to the installation of new piers, and approximately 89 feet and 0.022 acre of temporary impacts due to temporary cofferdam and

causeway. In addition, approximately 0.10 acre of tree trimming/clearing will occur.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) for this project will require closure of SR 3 and Willow Road, as well as a detour utilizing state routes. The proposed detour route will be from SR 3 to SR 18, to SR 5, to SR 218, then return to SR 3. The official detour length will be approximately 31 miles long. The local Southeast Willow Road detour route will utilize West 625 South, SR 3, West 700 South, and South 700 West and is approximately 7 miles in length. The detours are anticipated to be in place for approximately 150 days during the Spring and Summer of 2024. Access to all properties will be maintained throughout construction. School corporations and emergency services will be notified prior to any construction that would block or limit access. The total estimated project cost is \$3,562,391. This project is anticipated to begin construction in Spring of 2024.

The Federal Highway Administration and INDOT have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document with no significant adverse impacts to the human and natural environment found during the creation of this document.

Preliminary design plans, along with the CE, are available for review at the following locations:

1. INDOT Fort Wayne District Office, 5333 Hatfield Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

2. Wells County Library, Bluffton Branch, 200 West Washington Street, Bluffton, Indiana 46714

3. Beam, Longest and Neff, 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46250

4. Website: <https://tinyurl.com/1900038Documents>

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Raquel Walker by email at [rwalker@b-l-n.com](mailto:rwalker@b-l-n.com) by phone at 317-558-7546, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250 on or before March 24, 2023. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be mailed to interested persons upon request. Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed, please contact Raquel Walker by email at [rwalker@b-l-n.com](mailto:rwalker@b-l-n.com) or by phone at 317-558-7546, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact INDOT Fort Wayne District for the arrangement and coordination of services. Please contact Janette Jacquay at 260-969-8309 or [JJacquay1@indot.in.gov](mailto:JJacquay1@indot.in.gov). In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact Raquel Walker at 317-558-7546 or [rwalker@b-l-n.com](mailto:rwalker@b-l-n.com).

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771 (CFR 771.111(h)(1)) stating, "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program."; 2) 23 CFR 450.210(a) (1)(ix) stating, "Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate."; and 3) The INDOT Public Involvement Policies and Procedures approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.

nb 3/9, 3/16  
hspaxlp

# Bluffton-Harrison Middle School lists honor roll students

## Quarter 3 High Honor Roll 2022-23

**Grade 8** — Axton Beste, Elliott Brown, Mateo Castro, Madison Duncan, Sophie Eisenhut, Kenley Falk, Madelyn Funk, Jonah Geisel, Audrey Gerber, Isla Gibson, Sierra Grunawalt, Emily Hansen, Reagan Harris, Heath Johnson, Alexandria Koby, Conner Landis, Graham Linderwell, Alexander Maggard, Piper Morgan, Jared Moser, Riley Roby, Grady Rockwell, Maya Saige, Chanley Shaw, Gabriel Spencer, Colt Ternet, Myles Velasquez, Addison Yates, Anna Zurcher.

**Grade 7** — Reid Abbett, Kreigh Ault, Parker Barnes, Andy Baumgartner, Austin Bennett, Krista Lynn Blair, Jimmy Borabohower, Chayson Brown, Connor Byrd, Khloe Dick, Mason Engle, Tess Frauhiger, Eden Gerber, Rafe Gerber, Kylee Gottschalk, Gibson Grieser, Brody Grimes, Larinda Harms, Charley Hay, Khloe Jones, Cora Kunkel, Dawson Lee, Macy Lemler, Chloe Lesh, Emily Maggard, Jaida Mills, Briana Ortiz,

Cooper Pearson, Abigail Ramseyer, Kyla Reinhard, Carieliz Rivera Torres, Makynli Rudd, Natalie Scher, Breecana Schmidt, Addison Smith, Kenley Smith, Addison Sonnigsen, Mia Sprunger, Bridget Steffen, Bennett Stoller, Alisa Stone, Violetta Tarasova, Ava Trexler, Hunter Zoll.

**Grade 6** — Benjamin Aguilera, Elijah Bendes, Adalynn Bertsch, Jeremy Brown, Lyla Feinberg, Otto Fiechter, Morgan Fox, Asher Fritz, Amelia Geisel, Landry Grandlienard, Anna Hartman, Cleyton Kenworthy, Chase Kistler, Audrey McMillan, Audrey Mechling, Avery Meyer, Irene Monagle, Foster Monticue, Quinton Saige, Trace Simpson, Baylee Smith, Deacon Yates.

**Grade 5** — Kamryn Ault, Eli Brooks, Naomi Dailey, Blaine Ehrman, Molly Frauhiger, Abigail Garrett, Clive Gerber, Renley Hurst, Cadence Lehman, Jessica Littell, Paisley Neuschwander, Ayden Penrod, Emily Priester, Erin Ramseyer, Ithan Rinkenberger, Meghan Roberts, Adrienne

Smallman, Liam Smith, Cheyenne Sonnigsen.

## Quarter 2 Honor Roll 2022-23

**Grade 8** — Nadege Abrego, Tristan Ault, William Ault, Clayton Brubaker, Cooper Craig, Rori Drayer, Addison Gehring, Adriana Gehring, Rhett Gerber, Keegan Green, Aleeah Grover, Jordan Jellison, Luke Jennings, Rozlynn Johnson, Addison Kauffman, Samuel King, Kameron Kliniski, Evan Klopfenstein, Coy Lantz, Jackson Meyer, Lance Moser, Eliana Mygrant, Jessica Nusbaumer, Kierstynn Reed, Blake Reinhard, Jacob Ribich, Lincoln Rodgers, Alayna Sheets, Aiden Wilfong.

**Grade 7** — Emma Ball, Wyatt Beer, Layah Corbat, Kiah Craig, Grayson Crowder, Josiah Day, Brooklyn Douglas, Jace Draper, Grace Fry, Raianna Gentry, Raymond Gilliam, Gavin Grieser, Christian Herrada, Jacob Hyde, Cooper Jenkins, Sytree Jordan, Orien Kahn, Carter Lehman, Makenna Leitner, Leah Lovell, Klay Markley, Thomas McCarty, Connor McEvoy, Leland Michael,

Camora Otero, Avery Pfister, Elizabeth Premo, De'Twan Richardson, Shyria Chambers, Kayden Scheibelhut, Ava Sexton, Andie Shaneyfelt, Noah Tanner, Ariana Tello, Braelon Terry, Rylee Todd, Namine VanHyfte, Maci Williams, Nikki Williamson, Rhine Wood.

**Grade 6** — Adelyn Atkins, Wren Ault, Braxton Bebout, Cooper Bustos, Zain Butcher, Parker Christal, Kayden Claghorn, Alana Croft, Landon Davis, Mason Dietzer, Dane Fiechter, Marlie Fry, McKenna Fry, Khloe Gehrett, Heath Gerber, Esther Gonzalez, Ellah Grimes, Kyla Hall, Reece Himes, Luci Jenkins, Keyonna King, Vince Lambert, Xander Linderwell, Christian Marshall, Alexis Miller, Hadley Moehlenkamp, Madeleine Morgan, Landon Morphew, Macy Onweller, Harper Patterson, Averie Patton, Layne Philebaum, Davis Rockwell, Charlie Schantz, Eli Seago, Croy Stout, Colton Taylor, Liam Teeple, Michael Tierney, Elizabeth Tlacolmulco-Moreno, Maddox White.

**Grade 5** — Abram Atkins,

Carter Bell, Janeah Bennett, Riker Beste, Ethan Brown, Olivia Brown, Harrison Buroker, Christian Clubs, Alaina Coleman, Carter Conley, Brooklyn Coratti, Mercedes Diaz Sanchez, Davin Drayer, Rowan Drayer, Cooper Dunnuck, Collin Ewart, Addison Gerber, Tenny Goodwin, Braxton Graham, Parker Grandlienard, Kinsey Hartman, Aaron Hay, Sophia Heshner, Broderick Hohe, Zayah Hurst, Maddox Kauffman, Kole Kiefer, Parker Klopfenstein, Wesley Kunkel, Brielle Lortie, Myah Martin, Molly Mills, Joel Moeller, Olivia Morgan, Chance Moser, Lucy Moser, Phoebe Mygrant, Mason Olivares, Averie Pearson, Madelyn Platt, Devin Ramseyer, Hudson Reineck, Alaya Reinhard, Charlotte Rhoderick, Payson Rickard, Avalynn Scheiman, Easton Schipper, Seryniti Seale, Noah Shively, Jordan Simpson-Barkley, Rhys Smith, Bear Sprunger, Ciomara Tello, Simeon Terry, Delilah Traynor, Leona Veselji, Autumn Watson, Dominic Wilson, Hudson Withers, Lincoln Xayyachack.

# U.S. tribes get bison as they seek to restore bond with animal

By **MATTHEW BROWN** and **THOMAS PEIPERT**  
Associated Press

**GOLDEN, Colo. (AP)** — Dozens of bison from a mountain park outside Denver were transferred Wednesday to several tribes from across the Great Plains, in the latest example of Native Americans reclaiming stewardship over animals their ancestors lived alongside for millennia.

Following ceremonial drumming and singing and an acknowledgement of the tribes that once occupied the surrounding landscape, the bison were loaded onto trucks for relocation to tribal lands.

About a half-dozen of the animals from Colorado will form the nucleus of a new herd for the Yuchi people south of Tulsa, Oklahoma, said Richard Grounds with the Yuchi Language Project.

The herd will be expanded over time, to reestablish a spiritual and physical bond broken two centuries ago when bison were nearly wiped out and the Yuchi were forced from their homeland, Grounds said.

He compared the burly animals' return to reviving

the Yuchi's language — and said both language and bison were inseparable from the land. Bison were "the original caretakers" of that land, he said.

"We've lost that connection to the buffalo, that physical connection, as part of the colonial assault," Grounds said. "So we're saying, we Yuchi people are still here and the buffalo are still here and it's important to reconnect and restore those relationships with the land, with the animals and the plants."

The transfers also included 17 bison to the Northern Arapaho Tribe and 12 to the Eastern Shoshone Tribe — both of Wyoming — and one animal to the Tall Bull Memorial Council, which has members from various tribes, city officials said.

Wednesday's transfer came two weeks after U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland issued a bison conservation order meant to further expand the number of large herds on Native American lands. Haaland also announced \$25 million to build new herds, transfer more bison from federal to tribal lands and forge new

bison management agreements with tribes, officials said.

Across the U.S., 82 tribes now have more than 20,000 bison, and the number of herds on tribal lands have grown in recent years. The animals have been transferred to reservations from other tribes, from federal, state and local governments and from private ranches.

The animals transferred to the tribes Wednesday descend from the last remnants of the great herds. They were under care of the Denver Zoo and kept in a city park before being moved to foothills west of Denver in 1914.

Gilmore said the land acknowledgement statement read out loud during Wednesday's ceremony underscored the historical importance of the area to the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and dozens of other tribes that once lived in the area. But he added those were just "words on a piece of paper."

"What we're doing is putting action to those words for Indigenous people. Buffalo are part of the land, they are part of their family," Gilmore said.

# Beloved, debated, French bulldog becomes the top U.S. dog breed

By **JENNIFER PELTZ**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — For the first time in three decades, the U.S. has a new favorite dog breed, according to the American Kennel Club.

Adorable in some eyes, deplorable in others, the sturdy, push-faced, perky-eared, world-weary-looking and distinctively droll French bulldog became the nation's most prevalent purebred dog last year, the club announced Wednesday. Frenchies ousted Labrador retrievers from the top spot after a record 31 years.

Why? "They're comical, friendly, loving little dogs," says French Bull Dog Club of America spokesperson Patty Sosa. City-friendly, with modest grooming and exercise needs, she says.

Yet the Frenchie's dizzying rise — it wasn't even a top-75 breed a quarter-century ago — worries its fans, to say nothing of its critics.

There's concern that demand, plus the premium that some buyers will pay for "exotic" coat colors and textures, is engendering quick-buck breeders and unhealthy dogs. The breed's popularity is sharpening

debate over whether there's anything healthy about propagating dogs prone to breathing, spinal, eye, and skin conditions.

The British Veterinary Association has urged people not to buy flat-faced breeds, such as Frenchies. The Netherlands has prohibited breeding very short-snouted dogs, and the country's agriculture minister aims to outlaw even owning them.

"French bulldogs can be a polarizing topic," says Dr. Carrie Stefaniak, a Glendale, Wisconsin-based veterinarian who's on the Frenchie club's health committee.

# Public Sale Calendar

**MARCH 16 - 8 a.m.-6 p.m. ET - online Only - Spaulding Farms LLC, farm.** Property location: 3508 E 500 N, Montpelier, IN. 23.57+/- total acres, 22+/- tillable, 1.57+/- other, Blackford Co., Harrison Twp. Soil types: Blount-Glywood, Pewamo silty clay. WAPI: 141.3 corn bu., 43.5 soybeans bu. Contact us today! Scott Strader, 765-348-6538, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181. Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

**MARCH 26-APRIL 2 - (Online Only Auction) - Leffers Family Partnership, seller.** Huge online auction. Outstanding modern and antique furniture including Ridgeway grandfather clock, Amish made oak bedroom suite and dining room suite, wonderful curved front secretary, antique pump organ, feather weight sewing machines, glassware, primitives, tools, wicker patio furniture, rare Victor III talking machine, designer home decor, household. Preview: March 28 and 30 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., 12910 Tonkel Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING APRIL 7 - 10 a.m. EST - Secured creditors and various consignors, owners.** Online only truck & equipment auction! Offering 400+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, utility trucks, utility trailers, 60+ various skid steer attachments, 40' shipping container, tents, work benches/tool boxes & much more! Preview by appointment, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, kjauction.com, 260-724-

7402.

**APRIL 9-APRIL 16 - (Online Only Auction) - Various consignors, seller.** Large collection of antique console and table top radios, railroad items including early 1900's map cabinet, antique and primitive furniture, coins, vintage jewelry, Fenton, Lesney Matchbox cars. Preview: March 30 and April 6 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 South Jefferson St., Ossian, IN, (Steffen Group Auction Gallery). The Steffen Group Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**APRIL 13 - 6 p.m. - Adams County Commissioners, owner.** Adams County 4H Park dining hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe. Land located on N 200E between US Hwy. 33 & 300N (both sides of road). 132+/- acres offered in multiple tracts, Washington Township, Section 13, Adams County, Decatur. Tract 1: 9.96+/- tillable. Tract 2: 29.96+/- tillable. Tract 3: 29.94+/- tillable. Tract 4: 61.42+/- tillable. Land sold as individual tracts or any combination! Possession to be taken immediately! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

**APRIL 14-APRIL 21 - (Online Only Auction) - Harkelroad Buildings, LLC, seller.** 8,142 SF multi tenant office building that has been well maintained. This building perfect for an owner occupant or as a multi tenant investment property. Zoned R-3 with variance, paved parking, prime NE Allen County location. Open house: April 11 and 18 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., 3705 Rupp Dr., Fort Wayne, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.

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